

THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

MISSION STATEMENT

St Theresa's Catholic Parish is a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming community committed to living and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Under our baptismal mission and inspired by the Spirit, we are bread for one another and nourished we reach out to make a difference in the world.

31 January—1 February 2026

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

POPE LEO'S LENS

© Nick Brodie

It is hard to be a peacemaker in an age of conflict and division, but this is just what we are all called to be. One of the best ways for us Christians to be peacemakers is, as Pope Leo says, 'to love and nurture fraternity'.

'Fraternity', the Pope points out, 'stems from something deeply human.' As he suggests, 'it is certain that our humanity is best fulfilled when we exist and live together.' Fraternity is a calling, written in our being by our Maker.

Jesus shows us how to fulfil that calling. As the Pope says, 'to overcome the shadows that threaten it, we need to go to the source, and above all to draw light and strength from Him who alone frees us from the poison of enmity.'

Following his predecessor, Pope Francis, Pope Leo also encourages us to look to the witness of St Francis of Assisi whose approach to others was 'the inclusive way'. St Francis of Assisi 'placed all human beings on the same level, precisely because he recognised them in their common destiny of dignity, dialogue, welcome and salvation.'

As the Pope affirms, the welcoming of others signifies 'a universal fraternity', and thereby 'expresses an essential feature of Christianity'.

Jesus' call to his followers is to become a blessing for others, proclaimers 'of the Good News destined for the salvation of all.'

[Quotes from General Audience, 12 November 2025: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2025/documents/20251112-udienza-generale.html>]

REFLECTION

The Beatitudes ... A Call to Action

Jesus doesn't start in a fantasy dream world of perfection. Jesus looks at the world as it often is for many people, perhaps for most people around the world: 'the poor in spirit', 'those who mourn', 'those who are gentle', 'those who hunger and thirst for justice'.

Jesus astonishes the crowd by saying that such people are 'Blessed'. How can this be? The answer lies in our Lord's emphasis on the new community he is establishing under the reign of God: what he calls 'the Kingdom of God'.

Those in such wretched circumstances will have things set right, but only if followers of Jesus do everything possible to lift the poor out of the poverty which crushes their spirit, do everything possible to comfort those who mourn, do everything possible to make sure the gentle share the earth's resources, do everything possible to satisfy the craving for justice.

We could pause for a moment to pray the 'Our Father' pledging ourselves to help construct this new society where the Beatitudes can come true:

'Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:7-10.

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Next Week's Readings—5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 111:4-9.

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

BAPTISMS



Baptism are celebrated during the 6.00pm Saturday Vigil or 9.30am Sunday Masses.

Baptisms are also celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday's of the month after Mass at 11.00am.

"Preach the Gospel often and sometimes use words".

- St Francis of Assisi-

MASS TIMES

MON	NO MASS
TUES	NO MASS
WED	9.00am
THURS	NO MASS
FRI	9.00am Lay Led Service
SAT	6.00pm
SUN	9.30am

If you are Gluten intolerant and require a special host, please advise the Mass Coordinator

RECENTLY DECEASED — Jim McMahon, Stephen Caldwell

ANNIVERSARIES

Patti Brady, Fr Howard Crowe, John Thompson, Helen Richards, Allen Blakeley, Moya Schaefer, Fr Peter Collins, Sean Carroll, John Cartwright, Kath Mulheran, Elizabeth Long, Ian McQuillan snr, Dan Brady, Mercia Arnold, Tony Arday & Greg Lyons.

HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners—Robert Gillespie, Betty Bagley, Anne Thomas, Susan Quirk, Marie Ah See & Elizabeth Curtis

Friends and Family—Lyn Lee, Hannah Parton, Jan Boyd, Aye Aye Hla, Lawrie Atzeni, Imogen Atkins, Catherine Castelli, Naser, Madeline (Sally) Gray, Mary Gleeson, Geraldine Hurley, Iain Bruce, Jennifer Fogarty, Erica Armagnacq, Geoff Doyle, Anna O'Toole, Phil Connolly, Shona Kraayvanger, Indiana Harman, Louis Gandini, Connie Bamgart, Max Shearer, John Mullen Molly Schmidt, The Dowling Family, Marty Heysen, Fr Peter McGrath CP & Judy March.

PARISH FUNDRAISER—4 MARCH 2026

The first Parish Fundraiser for the year will be a Repertory Theatre production, 'The Game's Afoot' - a COMEDY murder mystery whodunit, with a Sherlock Holmes theme. Our very own parishioner, Mike Taylor is the production's director.

To help make the fundraiser a Huge success we are **seeking donations** of cash towards the purchase of drinks and snacks which will be sold on the evening and other consumables such as plates, cups, napkins etc. We are also **seeking donations** of prize items for the multi-drawer raffle which will be drawn on the evening.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards urgent church building repairs and maintenance. Watch the bulletin for further updates.

Tickets go on sale until sold out! We have 42 tickets remaining!!

ABRAHAMIC FAITHS GATHERING

Tuesday, 3 February 2026 to be held at Garden City Mosque, 217 West Street, Harristown at 5.45pm, followed by a light dinner. The evening will begin with a short presentation by each faith group on : "What is still considered sacred?" Presenters are: Mohammad Aminul Islam, Imam of Garden City Mosque; Ariel Heber, President and Community Liaison, QLD Jewish Community Services Inc. and **Emma Stinson, Year 12 St Ursula's student and member of St Theresa's Catholic Parish, Toowoomba.** Further details contact John Agnew 07 4666 3225 or see flyer in the church foyer. Organised by Downs & Toowoomba Churches Together.

Sacramental Program 2026

In 2026, St Theresa's parish will offer Confirmation and First Eucharist in June and First Reconciliation in August.

Parent information nights will be advertised in the parish bulletin and Mater Dei school newsletter as well as physical paper copies will be available in the church foyer and parish office.

The first Parent information night for Confirmation and First Eucharist will be Wednesday, 11 February at 6pm. Children who are in year 4 or above are welcome to receive these sacraments.

The second Parent information night for First Reconciliation will be Wednesday, 22 July at 6pm. Children who are in year 3 or above are welcome to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions please contact the parish office or Monica Brennan, the pastoral associate by phone: 4639 4588 or email: sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au or sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au



AN INVITATION TO A HISTORIC MOMENT—Cardinal Bychok Visits Toowoomba We are excited to announce a truly historic occasion for our Diocese! This coming March 2026, the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba will welcome His Eminence Mykola Cardinal Bychok CSSR, Australia's Cardinal. We are hosting two exclusive events:

Dinner – 26 March 2026 & Breakfast – 27 March 2026. Each event will feature a live interview with His Eminence, conducted by Michael Crutcher, former editor of *The Courier-Mail*. Tickets are now on sale via <https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/cathedral/> All proceeds will support the restoration of St Patrick's Cathedral.

PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM 2026 # This year the parish will be offering a choice of two Parish Lenten programs: The Wollongong Program '*Compassio*' and the Brisbane Program '*The Journey Home*' with reflections by Bishop Mark Coleridge. Both programs are perfect for deepening the Lenten journey. The cost of the program will be \$10.00. **The parish Lenten Program will commence Monday, 16 February, 10.00am at the Parish Office.**

SAVE THE DATE: BISHOP KEN HOWELL PARISH PASTORAL VISIT: 12-14 June 2026. Bishop Ken will be making a Pastoral Visit to Mater Dei Primary School on Friday, 12 June. The Bishop will be visiting St Theresa's Parish Community and celebrating Mass on Saturday and Sunday, 13-14 June.

CATHEDRAL RESTORATION PROJECT—Raffle 30-Dec 2025–March 2026
Every \$10 ticket helps restore St Patrick's Cathedral's stained-glass windows—and gives you the chance to win a \$300K First Prize Pack, including two luxury cars and \$140K in gold bullion! Learn more and purchase tickets: www.playforpurpose.com.au/catholic-diocese

SAVE THE DATE: ST MARY'S WARWICK CENTENARY: 15 March 2026. St Mary of the Assumption Church Warwick will be celebrating 100 years! More details of events to follow.

SAVE THE DATE: SPRED 40 YEARS IN TOOWOOMBA DIOCESE: Sunday, 22nd March 2026 at St Theresa's Parish Toowoomba. The wonderful ministry of SPRED is celebrating 40 years in our Diocese in 2026. Mark the date in your calendar; more details to follow in the new year.

JUBILEE OF MIGRANTS CROSS: 22 June -5 July 2026 Mark your diary! The *Jubilee of Migrants Cross* will make a pilgrimage through our diocese 22 June -5 July 2026 a beautiful opportunity to celebrate the faith, diversity, and shared journey of all God's people.

DIOCESAN SYNOD: To be held during October. Details to follow.

FEBRUARY 2026 THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

Let us pray, that children suffering with incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope. Leo P.P. XIV

Parish Ministries

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr Brian Noonan, Monica Brennan, Elizabeth Curtis, Allison Busiko, Greg Hallam, Gerard Hore, Julie Raitelli, David Rogan, Martin Stinson, Dave Wilson, Bernadette & Glen Whisson.

Finance Committee

Fr. Brian Noonan, Warren Dredge, Ray Taylor, Shane Blakeley, Tim Burgess & Pat Richardson.

Liturgy Team

Fr. Brian Noonan, Peter Kenny, Monica Brennan, Gay Jorgensen & Elizabeth Stewart.

Musicians

Norma Kenny, Kathy Sternes, Elizabeth Stewart, Libby Rosentreter, Charlotte Stinson & Emma Stinson.

Baptism Team

Jenny Ryan, Bernadette Hede, Jan Watkins, Anne Anderson, Jane Burgess, Catherine Cooper, Tracy Stinson, Elizabeth Curtis & Monica Brennan.

Sacramental Team

Monica Brennan, Alison Busiko, David Wilson & Gay Jorgensen.

Consolation Team

Fr Brian Noonan, Peter Kenny, Josephine Nolan & Monica Brennan.

Welcome & Hospitality Team

Paul & Kathryn Marangelli & Maureen Burke.

Family Groups

Contact Parish Office

Care & Concern Team

Damian Carroll 0409 662 047

RCIA

David Wilson 0451 131 849

St Vincent de Paul

For Assistance
1800 846 643

Parish Contact Details

St Theresa's Church—Cnr Campbell & Curzon Sts, Toowoomba

Parish Office— 55 Curzon Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350

Phone: 07 4639 4688 sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au

Website: www.sttheresas.org.au

Office Hours—Monday 11.00am – 5.00pm

Wednesday 11.00am – 5.00pm & Friday 11.00am – 4.00pm

Parish Priest—Fr Brian Noonan

Ph: 0458 967 094 bnoonan@twb.catholic.org.au

Pastoral Associate—Monica Brennan

sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au

Parish Secretary— Cheryl Rens

sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au



Special Year of St Francis

800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. (1181 or 1182 – October 3, 1226)

The Peace Prayer of St. Francis is a deep well of spiritual wisdom. We are wise to visit this well often. Few prayers are more popular around the world and better loved than the “Peace Prayer of St. Francis.” Nearly everyone recognizes a happy harmony between the words of this prayer and the generous, joy-filled and peace-loving spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. What will surprise many people is that Francis of Assisi may not have written the words of the prayer attributed to him, but he certainly lived them. Everyone who is able to read and understand these words, moreover, readily sees that they communicate the heart of the Gospels and capture what is most essential in the world’s great religions. Though written in simple language, the Peace Prayer provides rich material for spiritual reflection. The following are some of my thoughts on the Peace Prayer inspired by the lines (printed in bold type) of this prayer and by the example of St. Francis.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Like that of Christ, our mission on earth is to bring to others God’s peace—God’s state of “perfect well-being” and completeness. Shalom is the Hebrew word for this rich concept of “peace.” Often used as a greeting of peace, Shalom is a wish that those so greeted will find healing and fullness of life.

Francis saw this as his mission, too. In Chapter 3 of his Rule of 1223, he advised his followers that in going about the world “they should not be quarrelsome or take part in disputes with words...or criticize others; but they should be gentle, peaceful and unassuming, courteous and humble, speaking respectfully to everyone....Whatever house they enter, they should first say, ‘Peace to this house’” (Cf. Luke 10:5). Surely, Francis was an instrument of peace.

(excerpts: www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-francis-of-assisi/

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

(Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace:
where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.

Saint Francis of Assisi astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

Planned Giving—25 Jan 2026: Envelopes: \$335.00, Loose: \$561.35, Direct Deposits: \$1566.00 & Tap & Go: \$175.00

St Theresa's Catholic Parish (*Planned Giving Only*) **BSB:** 064786 **Account No:** 100014392

Regular Parish Gatherings & Meetings

Gospel Reflection Group Every Monday

10am at the Parish office meeting room.

All welcome

Care & Concern Meeting

2nd Monday of the Month

Care & Concern Meeting Monday's at 3.00pm

Second & Fourth Tuesday of the Month

St Vincent de Paul St Theresa's Conference, 4pm,
Contact 0408 808 437

First Wednesday of the Month

Parish morning tea at 9.45am, Cobb & Co Museum

First Saturday of the Month

Infin8 Catholic Residents Mass & Prayer Liturgy

Upcoming Parish Events February

February

1 Sunday	SPRED—Welcome Mass & Book Collection 4pm
2 Monday	Gospel Reflection Group—10.00am at the Parish Office. All Welcome
3 Tuesday	Abrahamic Gathering Mosque 5.45pm
4 Wednesday	Parish Morning Tea following 9.00am Mass 9.45am at Cobb & Co
5 Thursday	Parish Council Meeting at 6.00pm
7 Saturday	Infin8 Catholic Prayer Liturgy 9.30am
7 Saturday	Music Workshop/Meeting—4.00pm
7-8 Sat-Sun	Commissioning of Mater Dei School Staff during Mass
11 Wednesday	World Day of Prayer for the Sick
14-15 Sat-Sun	Parent Info Night Eucharist/Confirmation 5.00pm Commitment during Mass for those preparing for Confirmation & First Eucharist